

26. The method of claim 1 wherein the length alteration is a deletion of repeat units within the microsatellite marker.

27. The method of claim 1 wherein the microsatellite marker comprises a tetranucleotide repeat.

28. The method of claim 1 wherein the microsatellite marker comprises a trinucleotide repeat.

29. The method of claim 1 wherein the organ is head or neck.

30. The method of claim 1 wherein the organ is lung.

31. The method of claim 1 wherein the organ is bladder.

32. The method of claim 1 wherein the specimen is urine.

33. The method of claim 1 wherein the specimen is sputum.

34. A method for detecting cancer cells in a specimen external to a primary tumor comprising the steps of:

testing a plurality of microsatellite markers in a histopathological margin specimen external to a primary tumor to determine a microsatellite marker length alteration relative to a control sample, wherein a length alteration indicates the presence of cancer cells in the specimen.--

It is respectfully submitted that the new claims are fully supported in the application as originally filed. A speedy allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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